**Defence Expenditure**

†3978. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether defence expenditure of India is much lower and strength of armed forces is quite excessive:

(b) if so. The percentage of defence expenditure during the last financial year; and

(c) whether its enhancement is not required ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The Defence allocation for 2000-2001 (BE) is Rs. 58387 crores which constitutes 17.31% of total Central Government Expenditure and is 21% higher than 1999-2000 (RE). The present number of Armed Personnel in the Defence Forces is about 12.5 lakhs.

(d) ©The allocation to the Defence Services is made keeping in view their obligatory charges, essential maintenance needs, committed liabilities on ongoing schemes/programmes and prioritised new schemes and is considered adequate.

**Smuggling activities through the Sea Ways**

†3979. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA ; Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Coast Guard have made any specific action plan to control the smuggling and other undesirable activities taking place through the sea ways;

(b) if, so the financial provisions made for tlie implementation of the said action plan; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The charter of duties and functions in the maritime zone of India enumerated in the Coast Guard Act. 1978 includes, besides other duties, rendering assistance to the customs and other authorities in anti-smuggling

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

operations and to enforce the provisions of the enactments. These duties are being performed by the Coast Guard (CG) with the present force level. Adequate pro\ision has been made in the CG Development Plan 1997-2002 for procuring ships/aircrafts/equipment so as to undertake the operations required for prc\ ention of smuggling and otlier unlaw-ful activities. The CG ships and aircraft undertake various missions and operations to keep the maritime zones of India under survillance for prevntion of smuggling and other unlawful activities.

**Insurgencyin Kashmir**

3980. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA ; Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) wether Armed forces blame the Central Government for Kashmir's securitj- mismanagement as reported in the 'Asian Age' dated the 12th Januars. 2000;

(b) if so. the details thereof; and

(c) the offensive proposed to wipe out insurgency in Kashmir ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) ; (a) to (c) Go\ernment are aware of the said news-report wherein certain views ha\ c been attributed to security officials. Such a projection is entirely incorrect. The views expressed by the journalist are entirely his own.

Appropriate steps continue to be taken to tackle the situation created by terrorists in J & K. aided and abetted by Pakistan. The security forces are engaged in relentless operations to foil the plans of the terrorists and their promoters.

**Powers delegated to Hqr. by the MOD**

(c) CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL ; Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MOD delegated the powers for postingof Colonel and Brigadier of AMC to Army Hqrs;

(b) if not. Then under what provision AHQ is exercising the powers of transferring the above officers;

(c) how mam officers of the above ranks of AMC has been transferred in 1998 and 1999 without approval of MOD;